



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY  
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW  
DIRECTOR



## News Release

Contact: Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394



### Child Abuse Prevention Month events continue through weekend

April 2, 2004

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Michigan and state agencies kicked off the month with an event at Lansing's Hall of Justice March 31.

The Children's Trust Fund, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, is housed administratively in the Family Independence Agency. It is collaborating with communities throughout the state on a child abuse prevention awareness campaign throughout April. Events to heighten awareness of child abuse include:

- Beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, April 3, Lansing Boy Scouts will tie blue ribbons around trees and parking meters in downtown Lansing in front of the state Capitol. During April, individuals across Michigan are encouraged to wear a blue ribbon on their lapel or tie a blue ribbon around a tree or light post to indicate their support of child abuse prevention. The blue ribbon is a national symbol of child abuse prevention. Michigan State Police cars will all bear the blue ribbon during the month of April.

- A promotion to "Turn the Light on Prevention" will take place Sunday, April 4. On that day Michigan citizens are asked to turn on their porch lights and car headlights to show their support for child abuse prevention efforts.

- On April 25, Michigan faith communities are asked to observe Blue Sunday. On that day, it is hoped they will take time during their morning services to pray for the victims of child abuse.

"Child abuse is everyone's business," said Family Independence Agency director Marianne Udow. "This month we can show tangible support for children by engaging in one or more of these activities, by supporting a local children's service agency, or contacting our local child abuse and prevention council and volunteering our time."

For more information on the child abuse prevention campaign visit their web site:

[http://www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460\\_7172---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7172---,00.html)